

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 AID-05 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3732

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

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AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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ALSO FOR USAID/AFR/CWA

NAIROBI FOR REDSO/EA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, BE, RW

SUBJECT: BELGIAN FONMIN VISITS RWANDA

REF: BRUSSELS 9718

SUMMARY - BELGIAN FONMIN VISIT MORE SUCCESSFUL THAN
EITHER GOB OR GOR ANTICIPATED. DISCUSSIONS LIMITED TO
AID MATTERS. GOR RECEIVED INCREASED ASSISTANCE AND GOB
REDIRECTS AID PRIORITIES. GOR PUT BEST FOOT FORWARD
PARTLY FOR BENEFIT BELGIAN JOURNALISTS AND TV CREWS.

2. PUBLIC STATEMENTS - BELGIAN FONMIN VAN ELSLANDE
VISITED RWANDA OCT 29 - NOV 3 IN CONTEXT FINAL NEGOTIATIONS
NEW BELGIAN ASSISTANCE UNDER GOR-GOB MIXED COMMISSION.
TONE PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON BOTH SIDES EXCEPTIONALLY CORDIAL.
EXAMPLES INCLUDED SURPRISING STATEMENT ORIGINATED BY GOR
FONMIN AND ECHOED BY BELGIAN COLLEAGUE THAT BELGIAN-RWANDAN
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RELATIONS HISTORICALLY DEVOID OF "LITIGATIONS, SHOCKS OR

OTHER COMPLICATIONS". (STATEMENT CREDIBLE ONLY IN SENSE HUTU REVOLUTION WAS ACHIEVED WITH GOB SUPPORT. IN OTHER TERMS, BELGIAN-RWANDAN RELATIONS HAVE BEEN AND ARE REplete WITH FRICTIONS AND OCCASIONAL MUTUAL CONTEMPT). VAN ELSLANDE CITED LOME CONVENTION ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS AS INDICATIVE BELGIAN CONCERN FOR LDC'S AND AS CONTRIBUTION TO "NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER".

3. AID - BOTH BELGIAN AND RWANDANS APPEAR PLEASED WITH OUTCOME AID TALKS. FROM RWANDAN STANDPOINT, THEY RECEIVED COMMITMENT FOR BELGIAN AID IN FY-76 TOTALING EQUIVALENT ABOUT \$17.8 MILLION AND FORGIVENESS OF ABOUT \$6.8 MILLION FOR FY-75 "OVER-RUNS"-A EUPHEMISM IN PART FOR GOR BUDGETARY INABILITY PROVIDE ALL OF REQUIRED COUNTERPART FUNDING. FROM BELGAIN STANDPOINT, THEY ESTABLISHED A REDIRECTION OF AID PROGRAM FROM HIGH PROPORTION FUNDING RECURRENT GOR EXPENDITURES TO NORMAL DONOR PRACTISE OF PROJECT EMPHASIS. SUBTRACTING CERTAIN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE EXPENDITURES, ABOUT 60 PERCENT FY-76 FUNDING WILL BE DIRECTED TOWARDS AGRICULTURE PARTICULARLY AT HILL LEVEL.

A. PROJECTS - GOB FORMALLY COMMITTED TO EXPANSION ONE KIGALI HOTEL AND CONSTRUCTION NEW ONE IN KAGERA PARK. A 200 MILLION BF CREDIT LINE WILL ALSO BE EXTENDED THROUGH RWANDAN CENTRAL BANK. COMPLETE LIST OF PROJECTS AND DRAFT TEXT FINAL AGREEMENT TAKEN TO BRUSSELS BY GOB DEL.

B. DISAGREEMENTS - KEY PROBLEMS IN NEGOTIATIONS WERE GOR INSISTENCE GOB ASSUME (A) DIRECT OPERATIONAL CONTROL AND TRIPLE SIZE KIGALI HOSPITAL, (B) UNDERTAKE SOLE RESPONSIBILITY IMPROVEMENT/EXPANSION KIGALI AIRPORT, AND (C) QUESTION OF GOR-GOB JOINT MANAGEMENT AID PROJECTS. FINAL RESULT WAS TOTAL GOB REFUSAL TAKE ON HOSPITAL BUT TO PROVIDE MORE PUBLIC HEALTH TO RURAL AREAS. GOB ALSO AGREED PROVIDE AIRPORT TECHNICAL STUDY (BUT GOB AMB STATES PRIVATELY STUDY WILL ONLY BE IMPLEMENTED WITH OTHER DONORS SUCH AS ICAO AND AIR CARRIERS SO GOB WOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY AIRPORT TRAGEDIES). GOR REQUEST FOR JOINT MANAGEMENT (BELGIAN PROJ DIRS SUBORDINATE TO GOR OFFICIALS AND JOINT SIGNATURE FOR FUNDING) WAS REFUSED.

C. MILITARY - GOR EXPULSION CHIEF BELGIAN MILITARY MISSION TWO WEEKS BEFORE VAN ELSLANDE VISIT THREATENED
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PALL OVER DISCUSSIONS. EXPULSION WAS CULMINATION CONTINUING FRICTIONS OVER CHAIN OF COMMAND RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN BELGIAN MILITARY PERSONNEL, GOR OFFICERS AND BELGIAN MISSION CHIEF. GOB SWALLOWED HARD AND TOOK STEPS BEFORE FONMIN ARRIVAL THAT (A) BELGIAN MILITARY MISSION REDUCTION FROM 38 TO 31 WOULD BE ACCELERATED AND (B) MISSION WILL BE PROGRESSIVELY MODIFIED TO QUASI-DIPLOMATIC STATUS RATHER THAN SUBJECT AMBIGUOUS GOR COMMAND.

D. ADVISERS - GOR CURRENTLY PROVIDES OVER 200 TECHNICAL ASSISTANTS IN DIRECT GOR ADMINISTRATIVE POSITIONS INCLUDING 100 ADVISERS IN GOR MINISTRIES (INCLUDING PRESIDENCY) AND 77 TEACHERS. GOB WISHES DECREASE GLOBAL ADVISER PRESENCE AND GOR WISHED IT INCREASED. AGREEMENT REACHED ON PROGRESSIVE "RATIONALIZATION" WHICH WILL DECREASE GLOBAL SIZE OVER WHAT WILL BE LONG PERIOD OF TIME PRIMARILY THROUGH ATTRITION (MANY BELGIAN ADVISERS ARE EX-COLONIAL OFFICIALS FROM CONGO AND RUANDA-URUNDI WHO ARE NEARING PENSION RETIREMENTS). TEACHERS WILL GRADUALLY BE CONVERTED TO TRAINING POSITIONS.

E. PRIVATE INVESTMENT - GOR NOTED DESIRE FOR PRIVATE CAPITAL AND THAT INVESTMENT CODE UNDERGOING LIBERAL MODIFICATIONS. THIS POSITION CERTAINLY RELATED EDUCATIONAL BENEFIT PENDING US INVESTMENT AND RECENT RWANDA IFC MEMBERSHIP.

4. POLITICAL - NO MATTERS OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE WERE DISCUSSED IN CONSONANCE GOB PRACTISE OF AVOIDING SUCH SUBJECTS WITH GOR. FRITTS

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